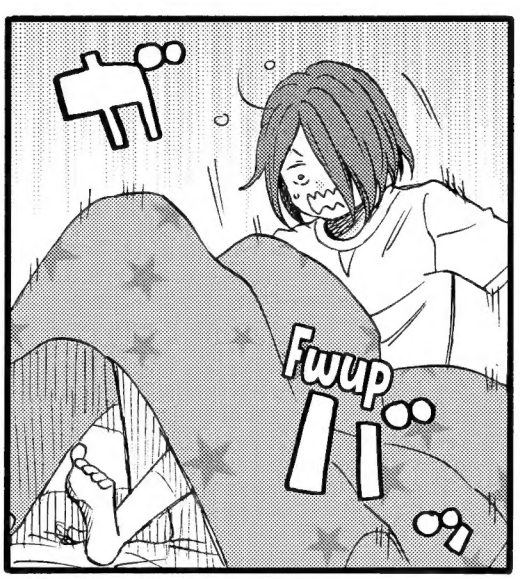
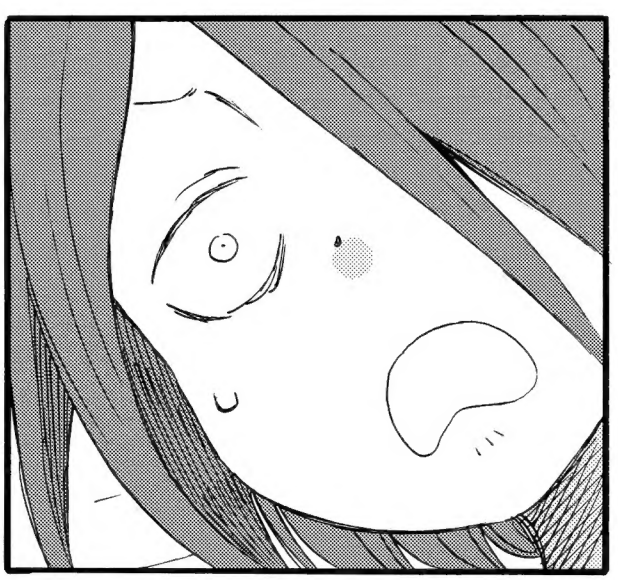
Tock Tock Tock

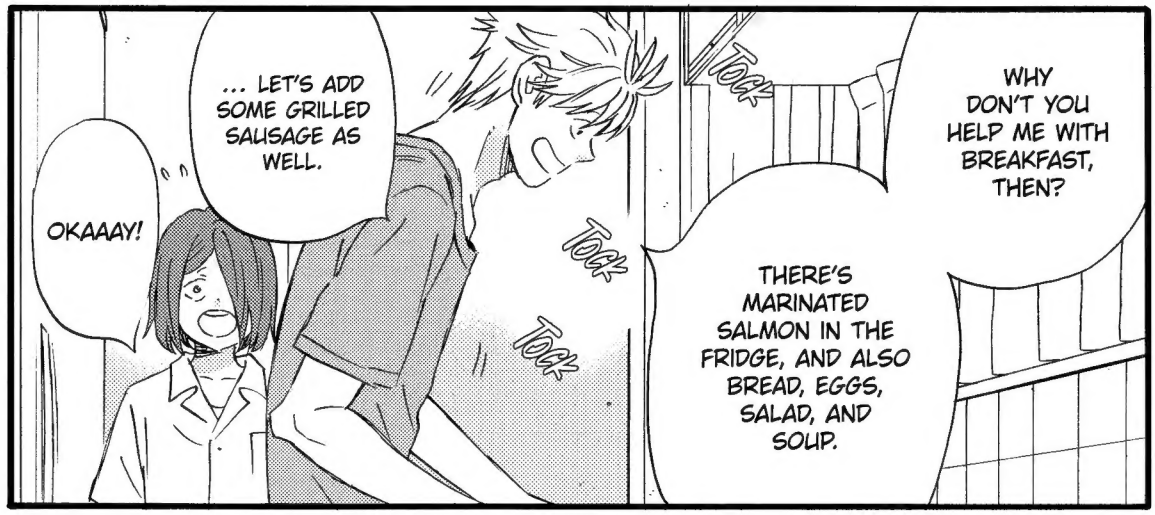
Tock Tock Tock
...


Fwup



OH, BUT...
I'M ALSO MAKING A LUNCHBOX FOR MYSELF.
NO WORRIES. MOST OF THE INGREDIENTS FOR YOUR LUNCH BOX WERE PREPARED YESTERDAY, SO I'M ALMOST DONE WITH IT.

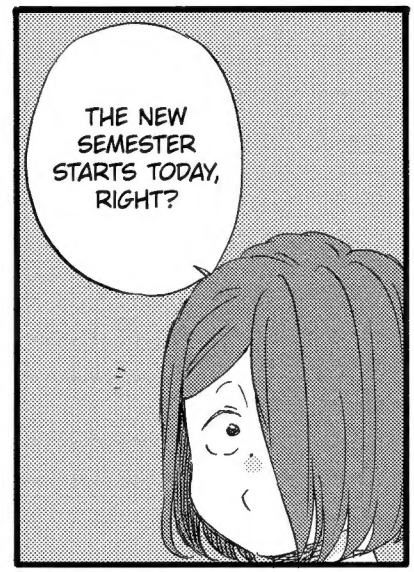
OHH! GOOD MORNING, JUN-KUN...
I WANTED TO WAKE UP EARLY AND MAKE A LUNCHBOX, BUT...
WHOA! I'M SORRY!
Thmp Thmp Thmp

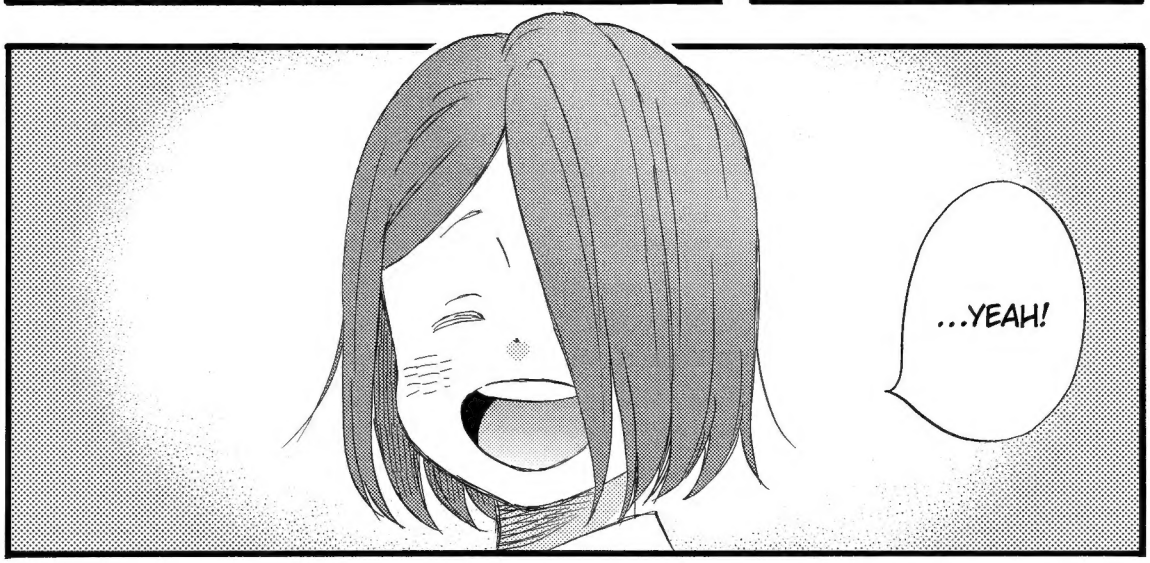

OKAAAY!
... LET'S ADD SOME GRILLED SAUSAGE AS WELL.
Tock
Tock
Tock
THERE'S MARINATED SALMON IN THE FRIDGE, AND ALSO BREAD, EGGS, SALAD, AND SOUP.
WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME WITH BREAKFAST, THEN?

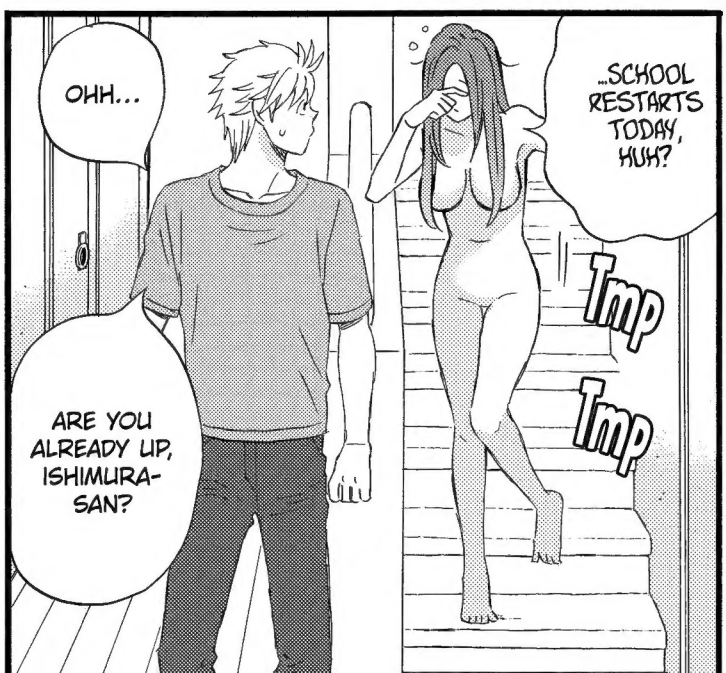
Where are the eggs again...?

Salad and...
Marinated salmon...

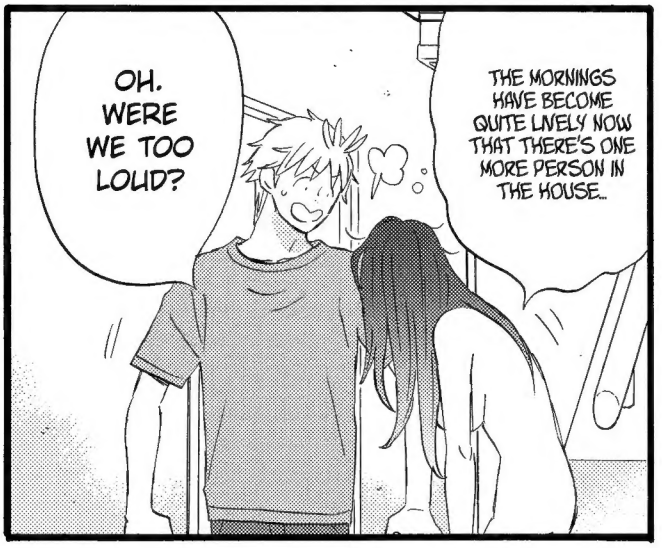
HAVE FUN WITH YOUR STUDIES AND CLUB ACTIVITIES!

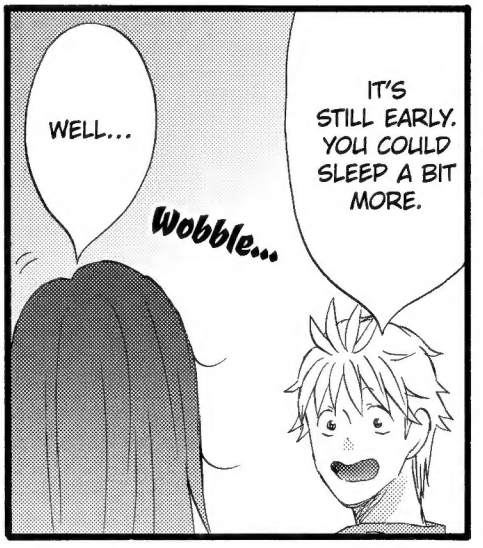

THE NEW SEMESTER STARTS TODAY, RIGHT?

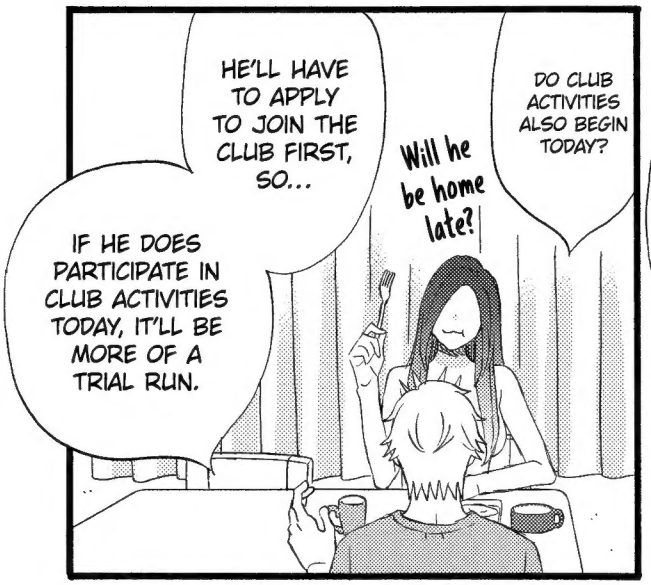

...YEAH!


OHH...
ARE YOU ALREADY UP, ISHIMURA-SAN?
...SCHOOL RESTARTS TODAY, HUH?
Tmp
Tmp

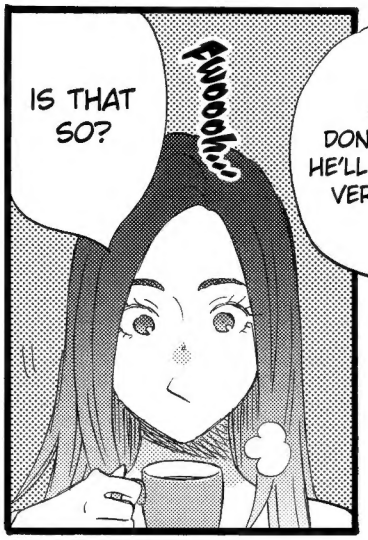
I'M OFF!
HAVE A GOOD DAY!

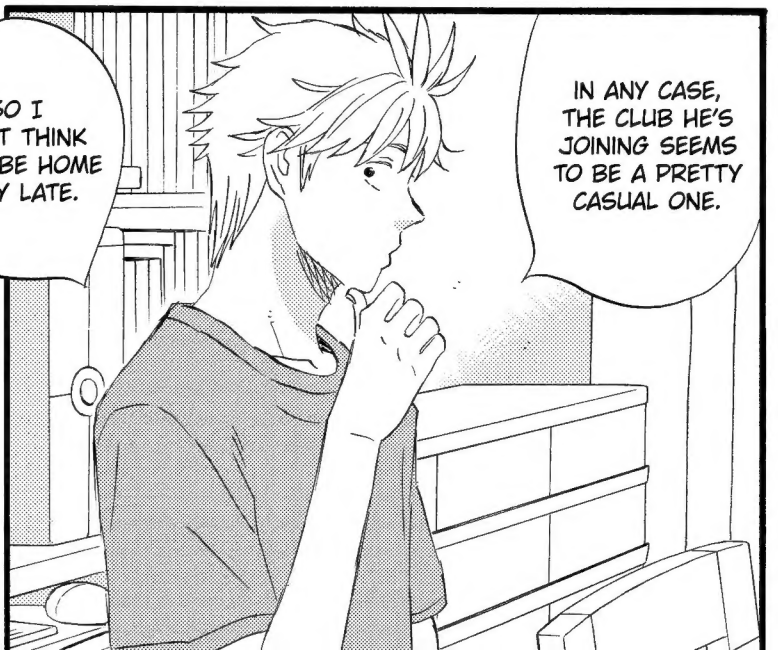

OH. WERE WE TOO LOUD?
THE MORNINGS HAVE BECOME QUITE LIVELY NOW THAT THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON IN THE HOUSE...


WELL...
Wobble...
IT'S STILL EARLY. YOU COULD SLEEP A BIT MORE.

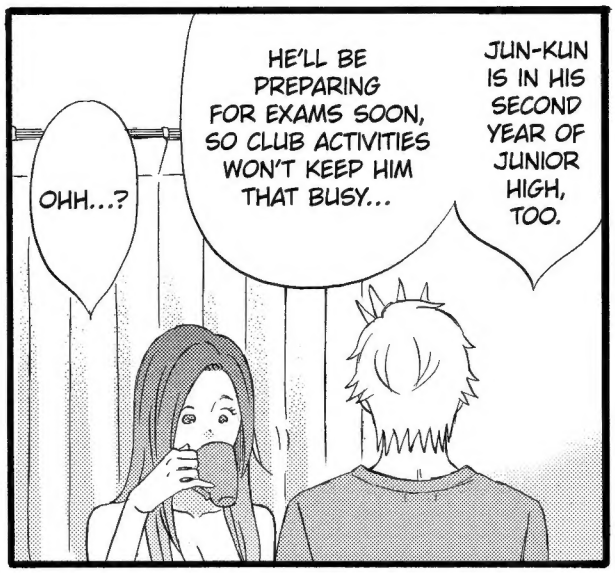

HE'LL HAVE TO APPLY TO JOIN THE CLUB FIRST, SO...
IF HE DOES PARTICIPATE IN CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY, IT'LL BE MORE OF A TRIAL RUN.
Will he be home late?
DO CLUB ACTIVITIES ALSO BEGIN TODAY?

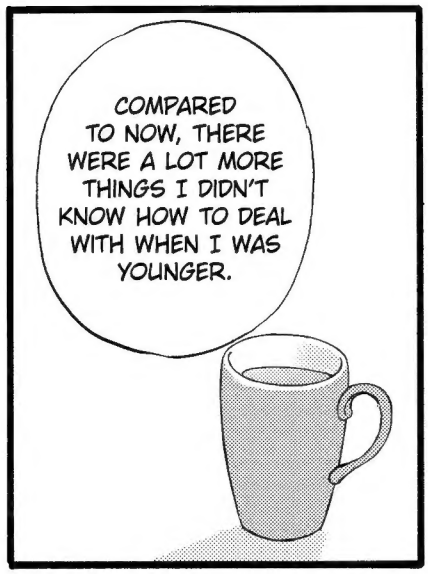
TRUE. YOU CAN EVEN FEEL IT IN HIS VOICE, IT'S GOTTEN STRONGER.
JUN USED TO BE AN AWFULLY QUIET BOY, BUT...
HE'S GOTTEN PRETTY ENERGETIC.

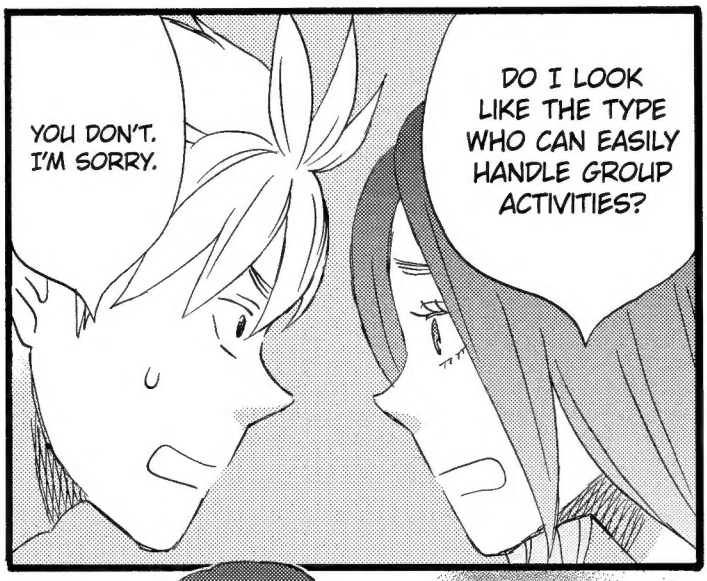

IS THAT SO?
Fwoooh...

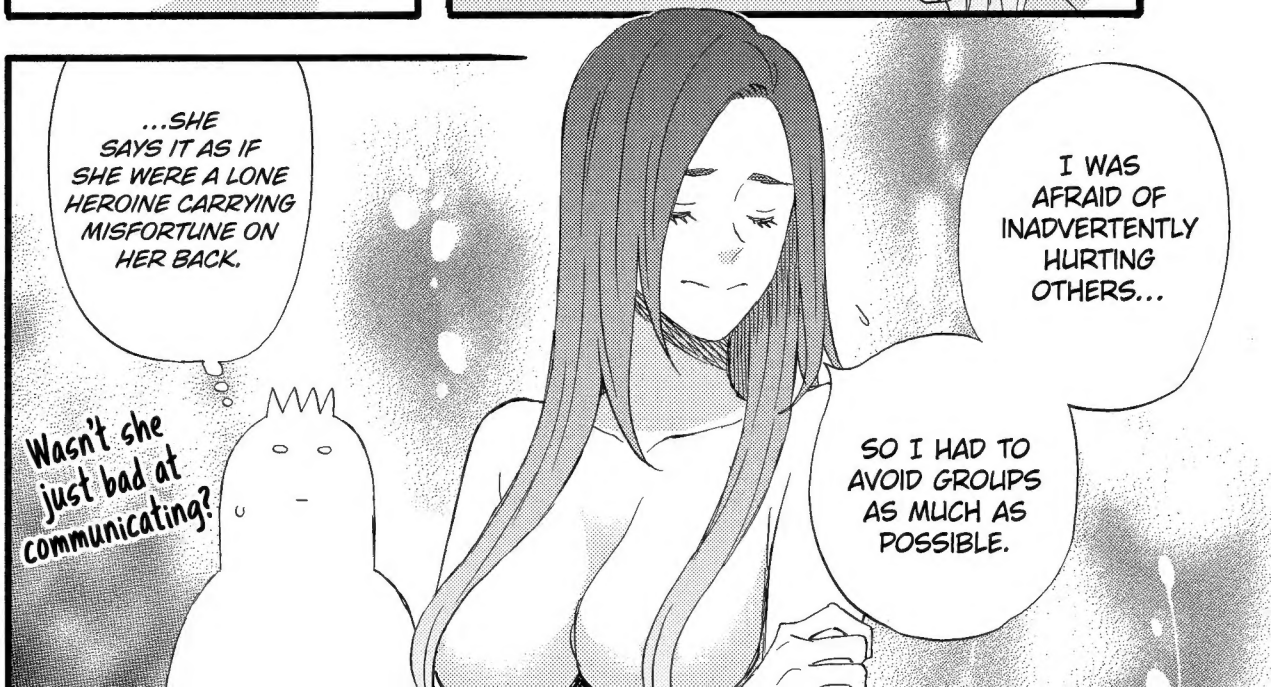

SO I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE HOME VERY LATE.
IN ANY CASE, THE CLUB HE'S JOINING SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY CASUAL ONE.

UM, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "OHH...?"
DIDN'T YOU JOIN ANY CLUBS AS A STUDENT?
...LISTEN HERE.

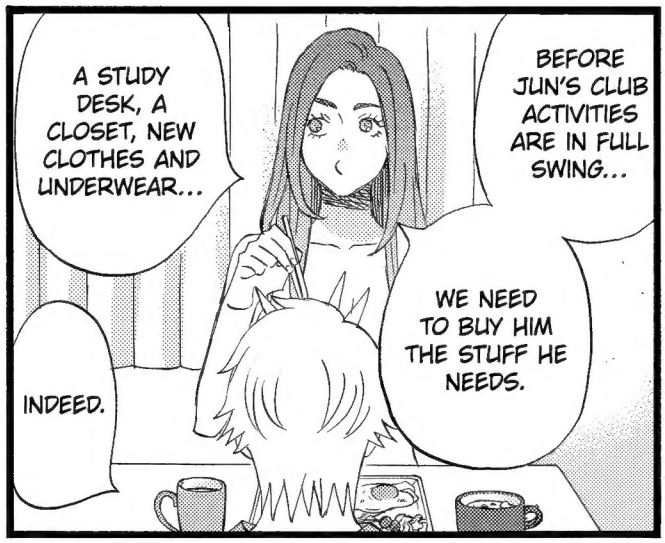

OHH...?
HE'LL BE PREPARING FOR EXAMS SOON, SO CLUB ACTIVITIES WON'T KEEP HIM THAT BUSY...
JUN-KUN IS IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, TOO.


COMPARED TO NOW, THERE WERE A LOT MORE THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

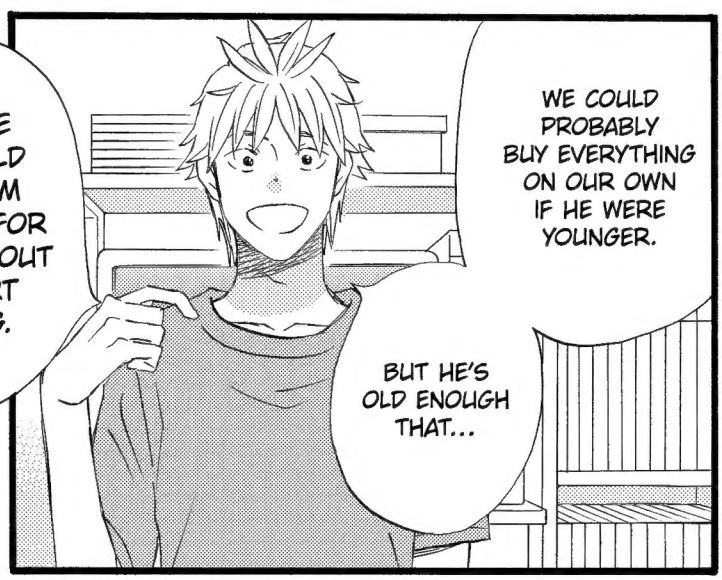

YOU DON'T. I'M SORRY.
DO I LOOK LIKE THE TYPE WHO CAN EASILY HANDLE GROUP ACTIVITIES?

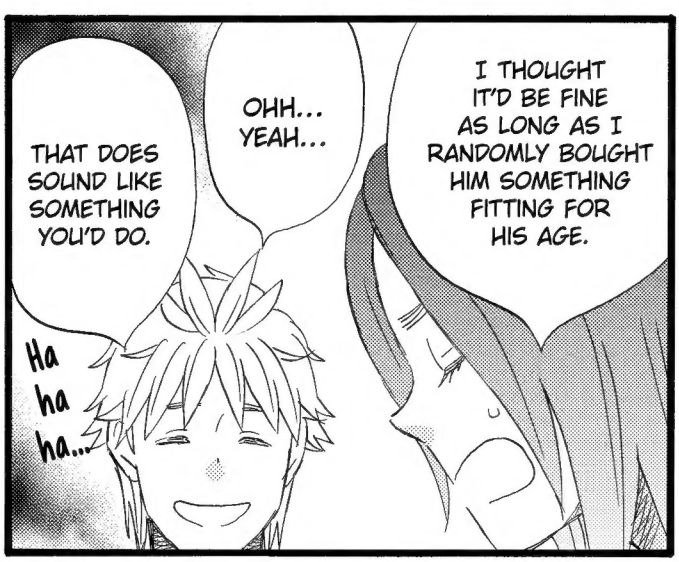

...SHE SAYS IT AS IF SHE WERE A LONE HEROINE CARRYING MISFORTUNE ON HER BACK.
Wasn't she just bad at communicating?
I WAS AFRAID OF INADVERTENTLY HURTING OTHERS...
SO I HAD TO AVOID GROUPS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

OHH?
ACTUALLY, I THINK JUN-KUN SHOULD JOIN US ON THIS SHOPPING TRIP.


A STUDY DESK, A CLOSET, NEW CLOTHES AND UNDERWEAR...
BEFORE JUN'S CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE IN FULL SWING...
INDEED.
WE NEED TO BUY HIM THE STUFF HE NEEDS.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALLOW HIM TO DECIDE FOR HIMSELF ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING.


WE COULD PROBABLY BUY EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN IF HE WERE YOUNGER.
BUT HE'S OLD ENOUGH THAT...


THAT DOES SOUND LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D DO.
OHH... YEAH...
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FINE AS LONG AS I RANDOMLY BOUGHT HIM SOMETHING FITTING FOR HIS AGE.
Ha ha ha...

I SEE... YOU'RE AMAZING, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT AT ALL.
WHAT ...?

YOU RESPECT JUN AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

...YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER YOU COULD BE A GOOD FATHER TO JUN THE NIGHT WE ADOPTED HIM, BUT...

YOU'LL BE OKAY, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

Heh heh!

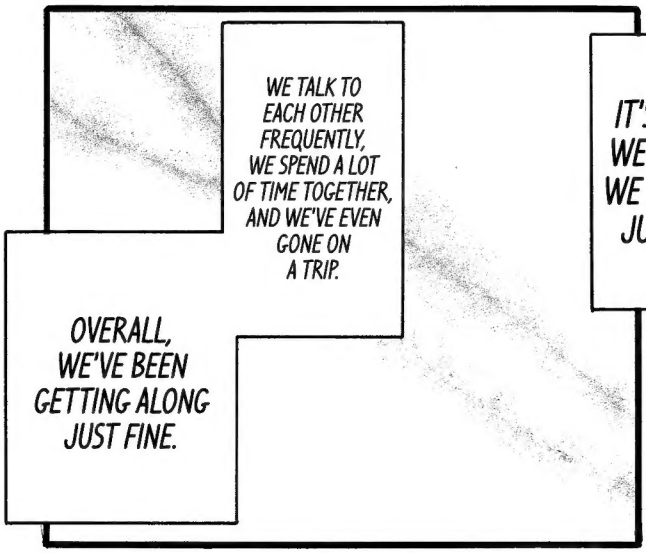
PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE ABLE TO EARN THE TRUST OF OTHERS.

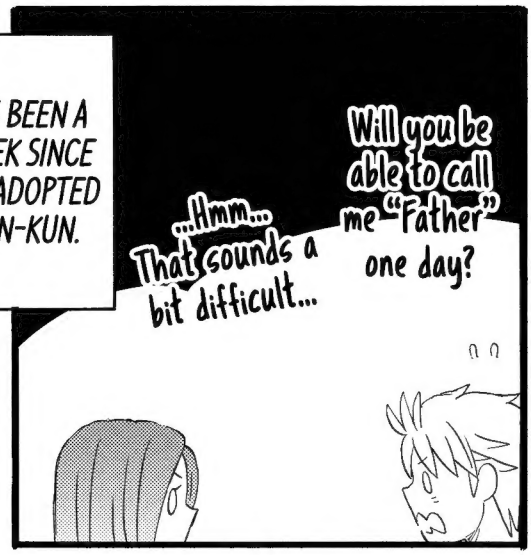
SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU, FATHER.

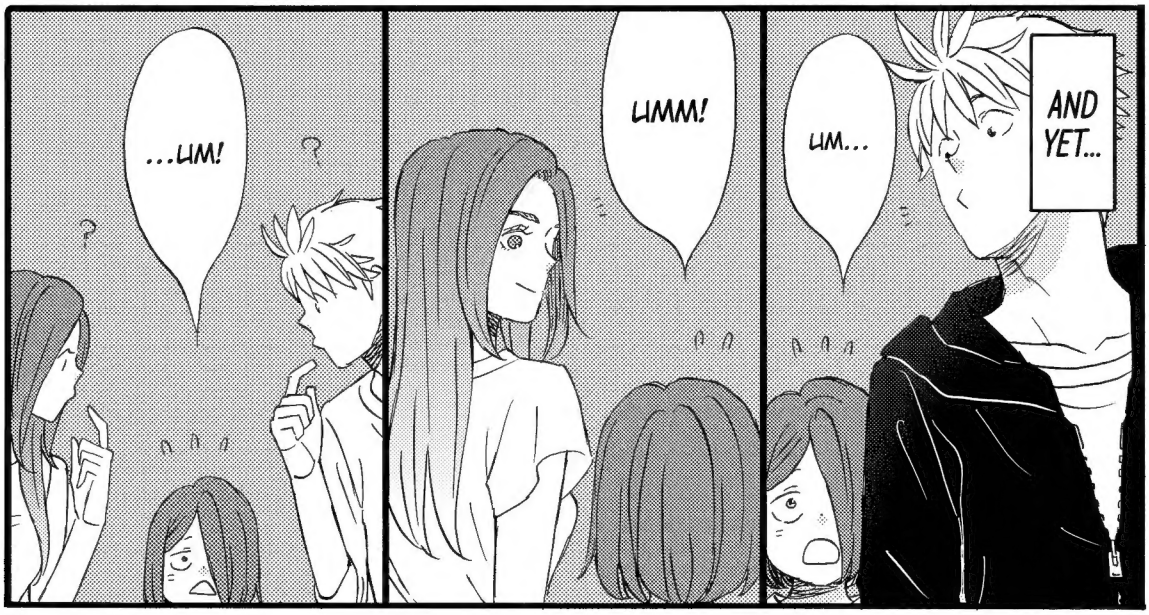
"FATHER..."

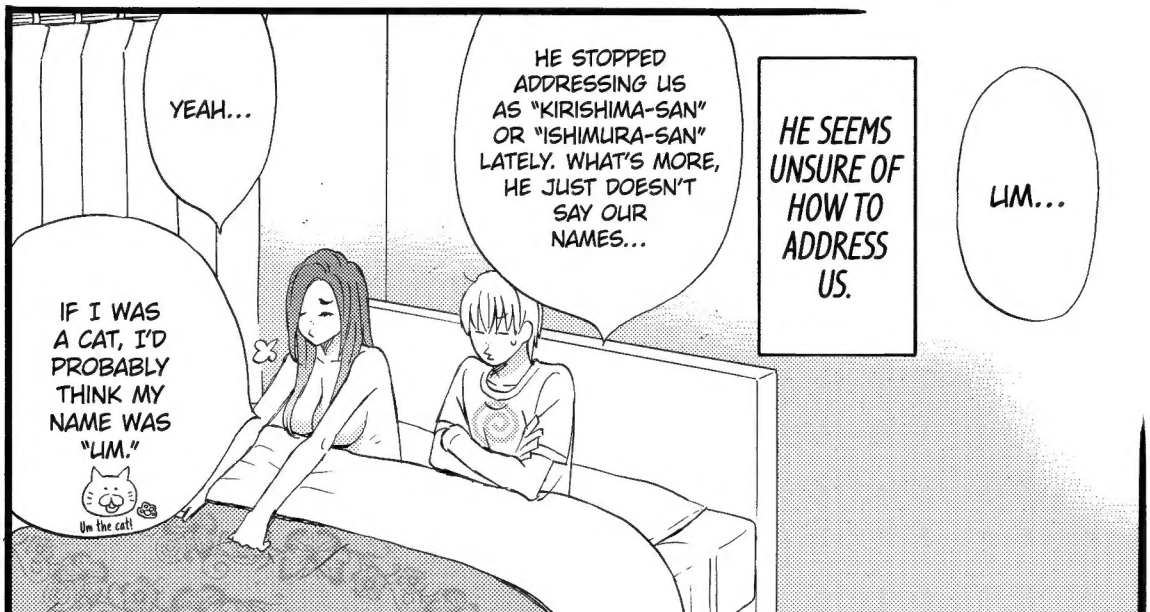
COMPARED TO ME, WHO'S INFLEXIBLE AND UNABLE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE BETTER FOR OTHERS...

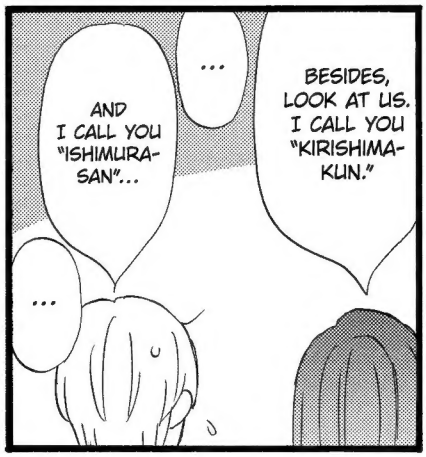
YOU'RE MUCH BETTER SUITED TO BEING A PARENT.

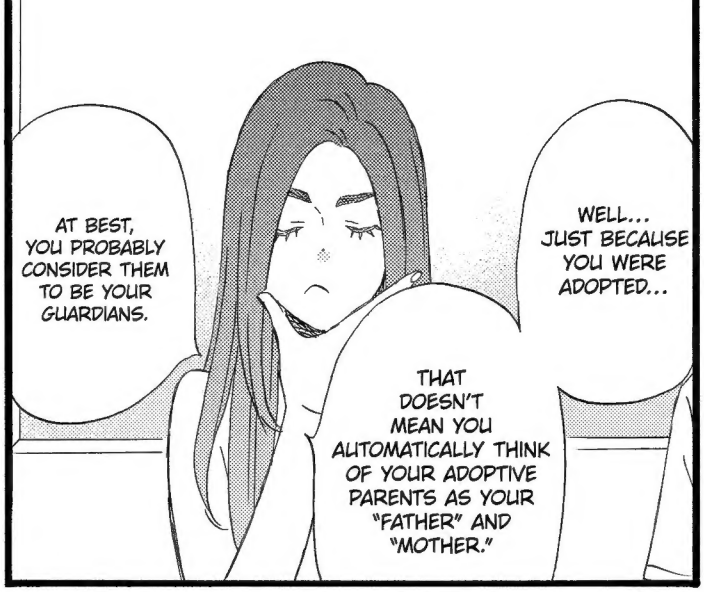

WE TALK TO EACH OTHER FREQUENTLY, WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, AND WE'VE EVEN GONE ON A TRIP.
OVERALL, WE'VE BEEN GETTING ALONG JUST FINE.


IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE WE ADOPTED JUN-KUN.
...Hmm... That sounds a bit difficult...
Will you be able to call me "Father" one day?

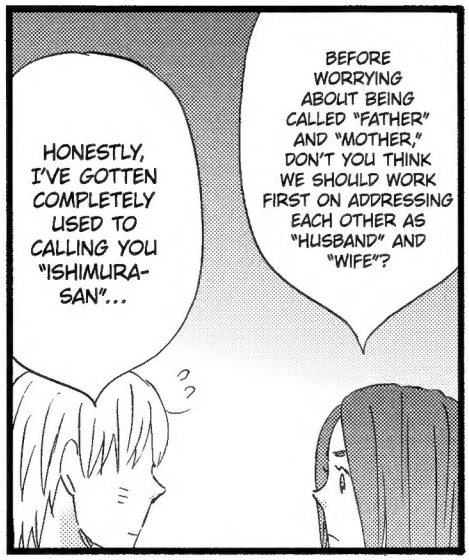

...UM!
UMM!
UM...
AND YET...

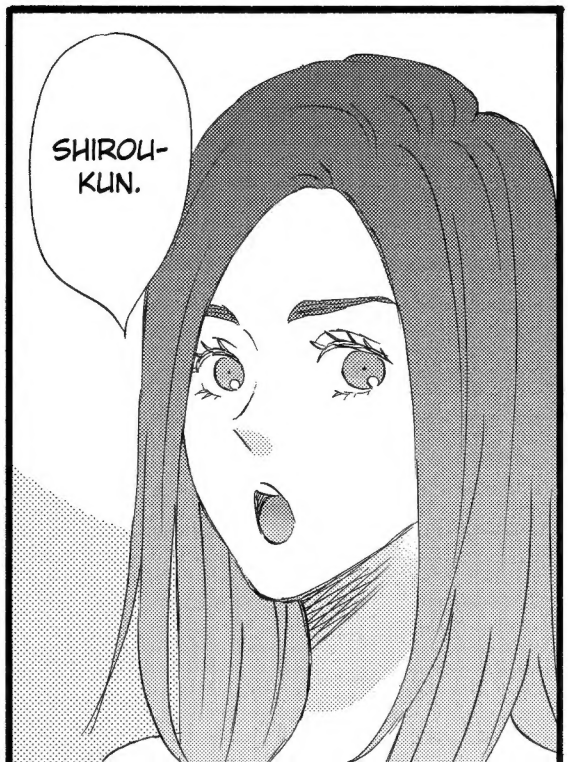

YEAH...
HE STOPPED ADDRESSING US AS "KIRISHIMA-SAN" OR "ISHIMURA-SAN" LATELY. WHAT'S MORE, HE JUST DOESN'T SAY OUR NAMES...
HE SEEMS UNSURE OF HOW TO ADDRESS US.
UM...
IF I WAS A CAT, I'D PROBABLY THINK MY NAME WAS "UM."
Um the cat!

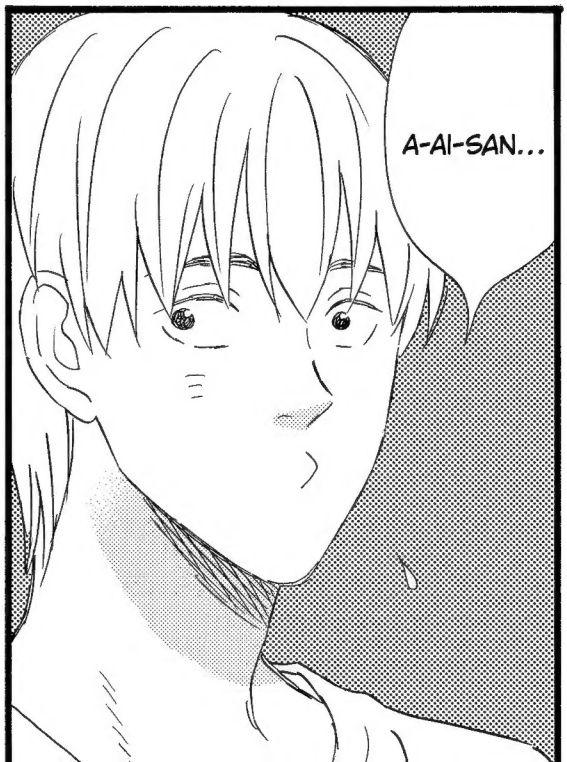

BESIDES, LOOK AT US. I CALL YOU "KIRISHIMA-KUN."
...
AND I CALL YOU "ISHIMURA-SAN"...
...


WELL... JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE ADOPTED...
AT BEST, YOU PROBABLY CONSIDER THEM TO BE YOUR GUARDIANS.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU AUTOMATICALLY THINK OF YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS AS YOUR "FATHER" AND "MOTHER."

ALL RIGHT. SHOULD WE START ADDRESSING EACH OTHER BY OUR FIRST NAMES, THEN?
WHAT?!
YOU... THINK SO?
MAYBE IT'LL BE EASIER FOR JUN TO USE "FATHER" AND "MOTHER" IF WE START BEHAVING MORE LIKE A MARRIED COUPLE.

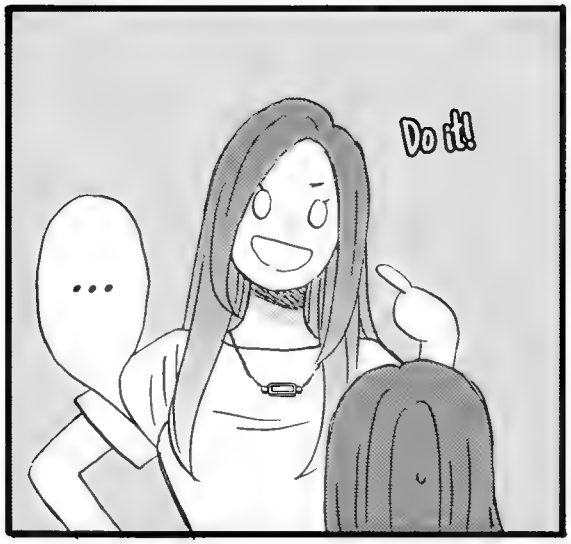

BEFORE WORRYING ABOUT BEING CALLED "FATHER" AND "MOTHER," DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD WORK FIRST ON ADDRESSING EACH OTHER AS "HUSBAND" AND "WIFE"?
HONESTLY, I'VE GOTTEN COMPLETELY USED TO CALLING YOU "ISHIMURA-SAN"...

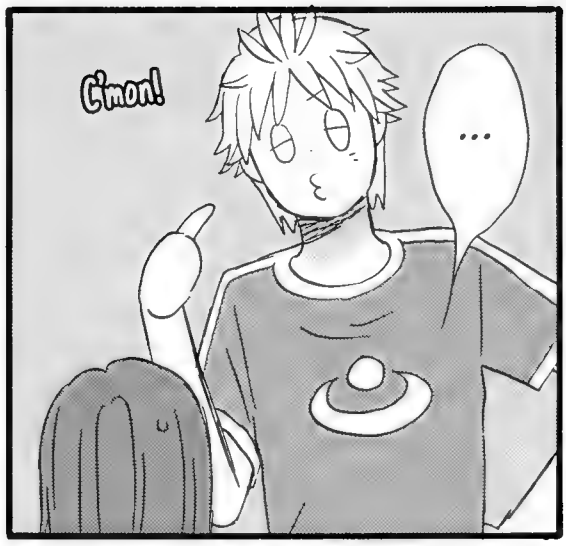

SHIROU-KUN.

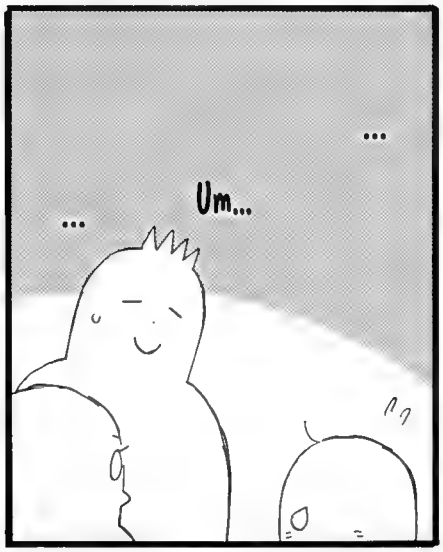

A-AI-SAN...

A-ALL RIGHT...
YOU'RE FREE TO DO THE SAME, JUN.

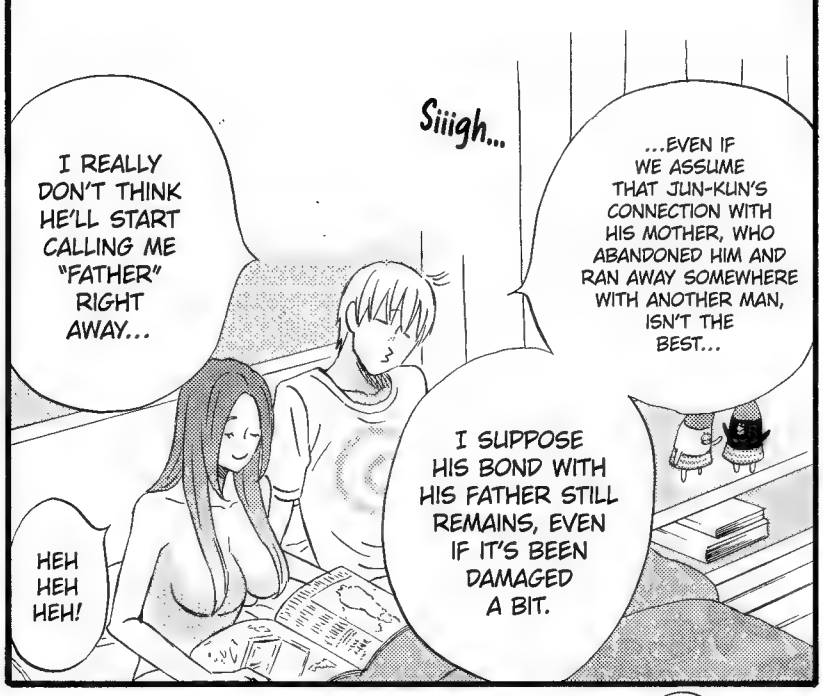
SINCE WE NOW CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, WE'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE THE WAY WE ADDRESS EACH OTHER AS WELL.
HERE'S YOUR TEA...
...DID YOU ALWAYS CALL EACH OTHER BY YOUR FIRST NAMES?

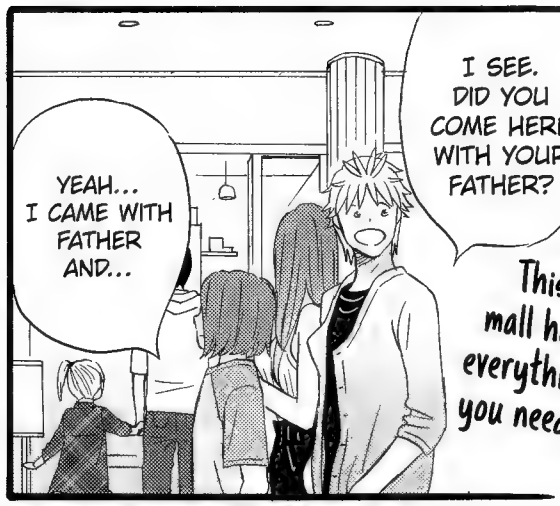

Do it!
...


C'mon!
...


...
Um...
...

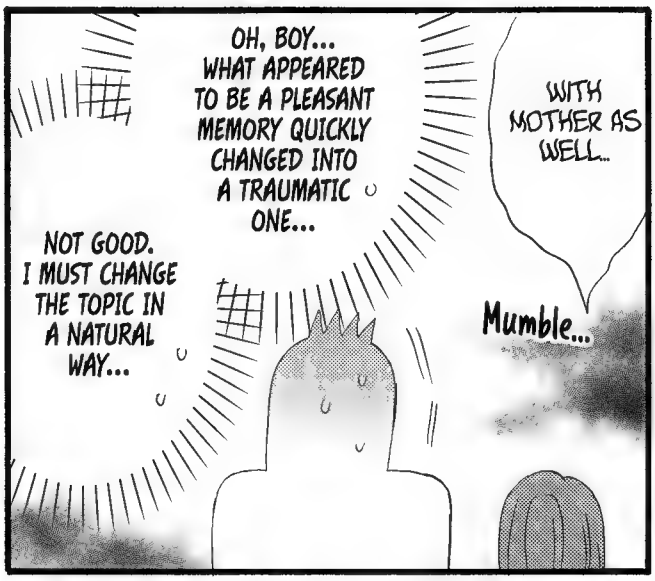
I'VE BEEN ADOPTED, SO DOES THAT MEAN I'M ALSO "KIRISHIMA" NOW?
...

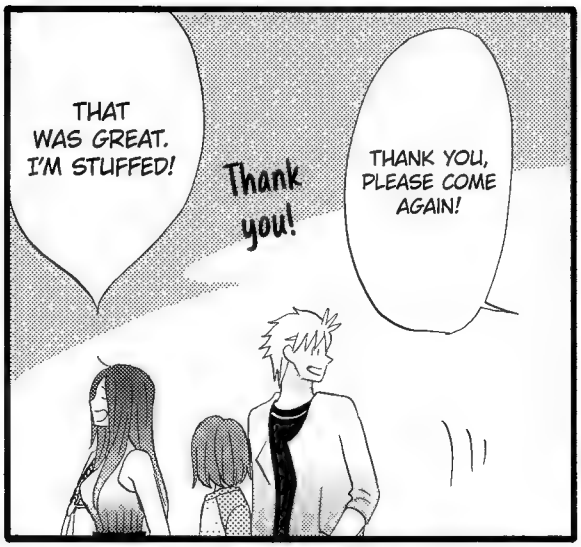


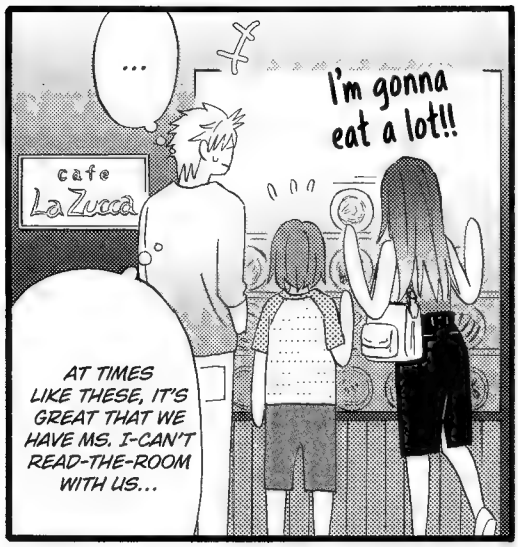


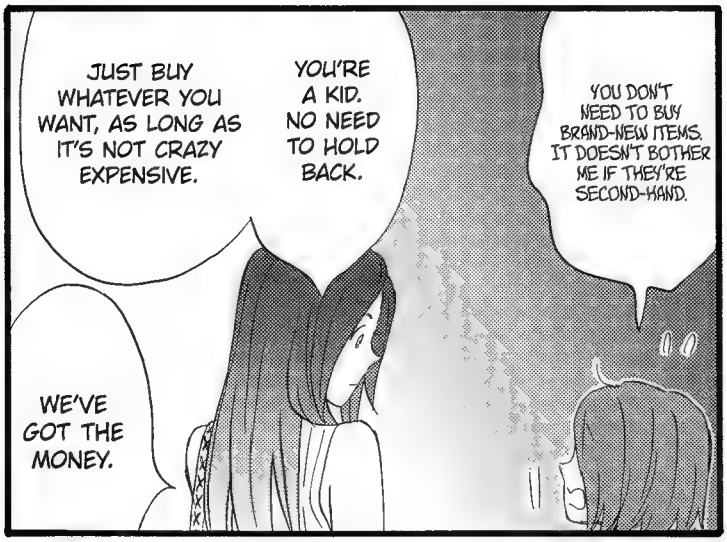
This mall has everything you need...

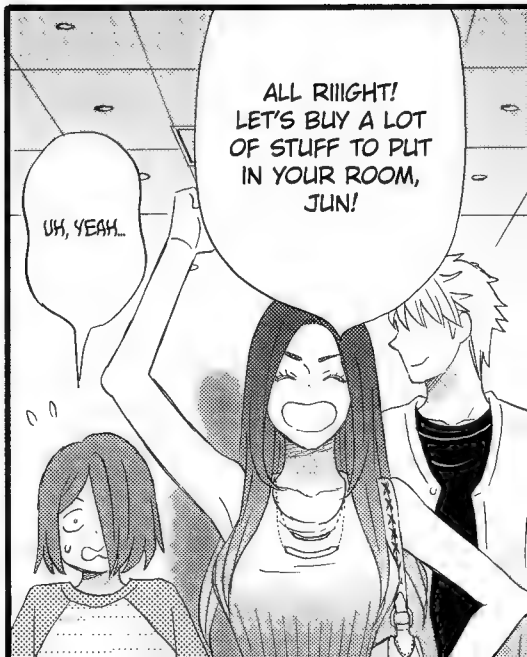
I'M STARVING! LET'S HAVE LUNCH FIRST!

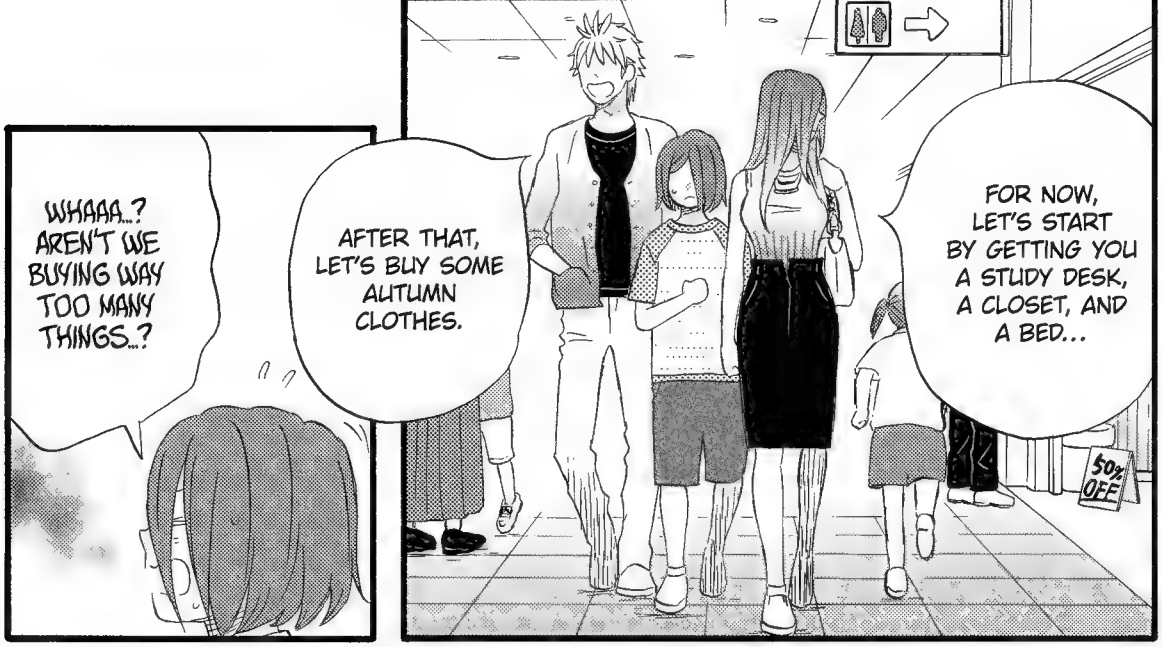

OH, BOY... WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PLEASANT MEMORY QUICKLY CHANGED INTO A TRAUMATIC ONE...
WITH MOTHER AS WELL...
NOT GOOD. I MUST CHANGE THE TOPIC IN A NATURAL WAY...
Mumble...


THAT WAS GREAT. I'M STUFFED!
Thank you!
THANK YOU, PLEASE COME AGAIN!


...
I'm gonna eat a lot!!
cafe La Zucca
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S GREAT THAT WE HAVE MS. I-CAN'T READ-THE-ROOM WITH US...

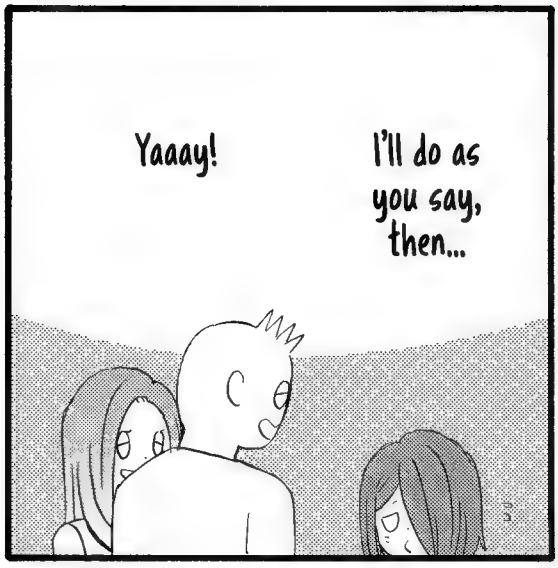

JUST BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT CRAZY EXPENSIVE.
YOU'RE A KID. NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY BRAND-NEW ITEMS. IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME IF THEY'RE SECOND-HAND.
WE'VE GOT THE MONEY.

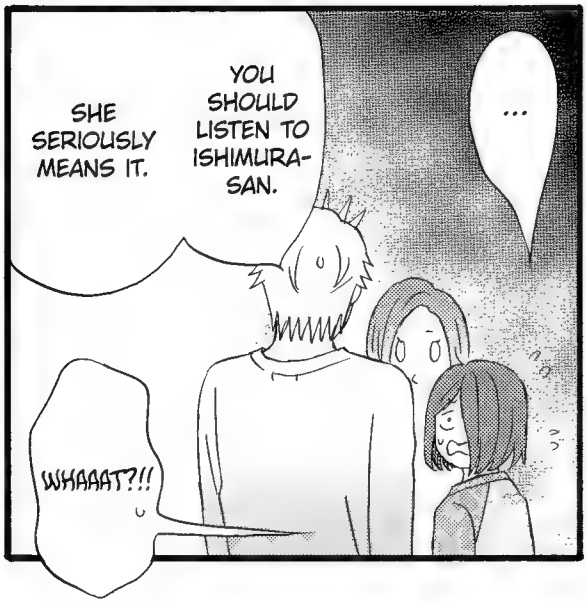

ALL RIIIGHT! LET'S BUY A LOT OF STUFF TO PUT IN YOUR ROOM, JUN!
UH, YEAH...

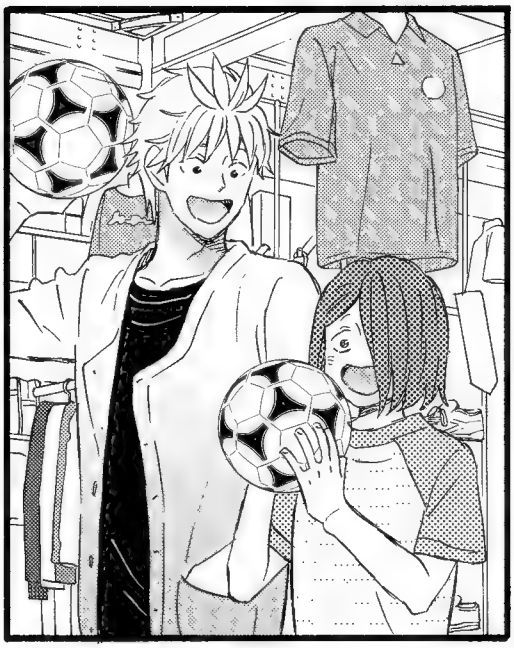

WHAAA...? AREN'T WE BUYING WAY TOO MANY THINGS...?
AFTER THAT, LET'S BUY SOME AUTUMN CLOTHES.
FOR NOW, LET'S START BY GETTING YOU A STUDY DESK, A CLOSET, AND A BED...
50% OFF

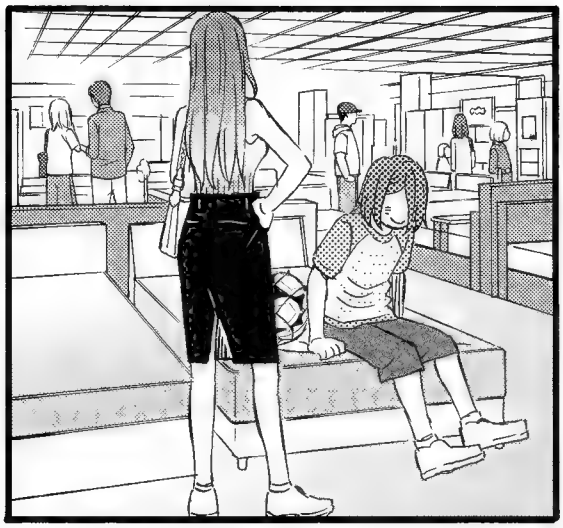
WHAAAT...?!
AND LET ME WARN YOU, I'M NOT GOOD AT PICKING STUFF. YOUR ROOM MIGHT TURN INTO AN INCREDIBLY CHAOTIC MESS.

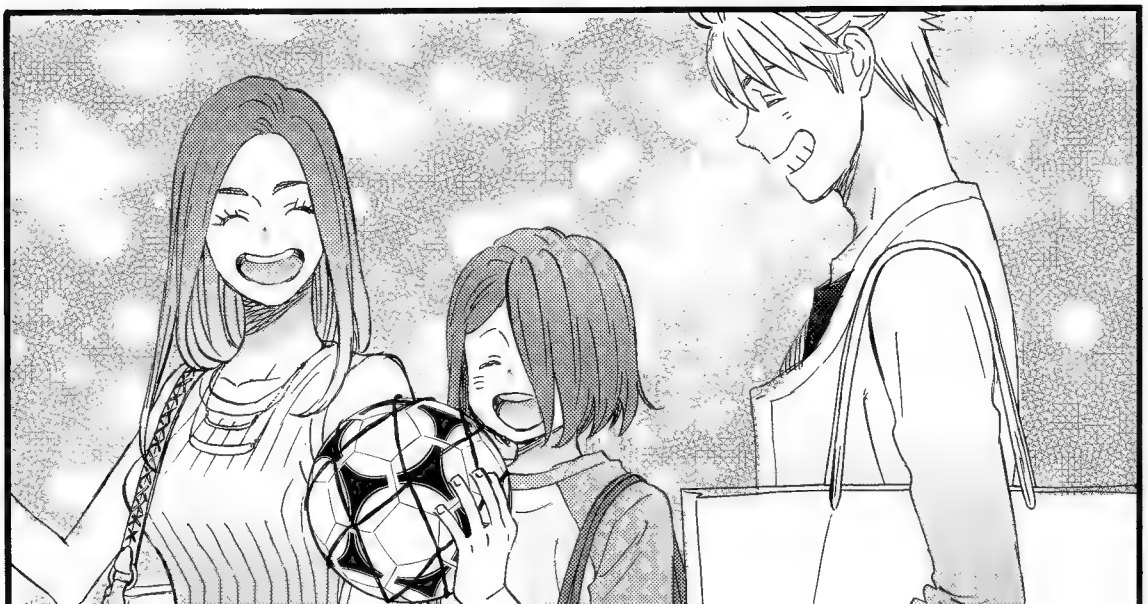
IF YOU DON'T PICK THEM YOURSELF, I'LL HAVE TO BUY EVERYTHING BASED SOLELY ON MY PREFERENCES...
THEY'RE ALL NECESSARY FOR YOU TO LIVE AT OUR HOME.
HALT
WHOA!


Yaaay!
I'll do as you say, then...

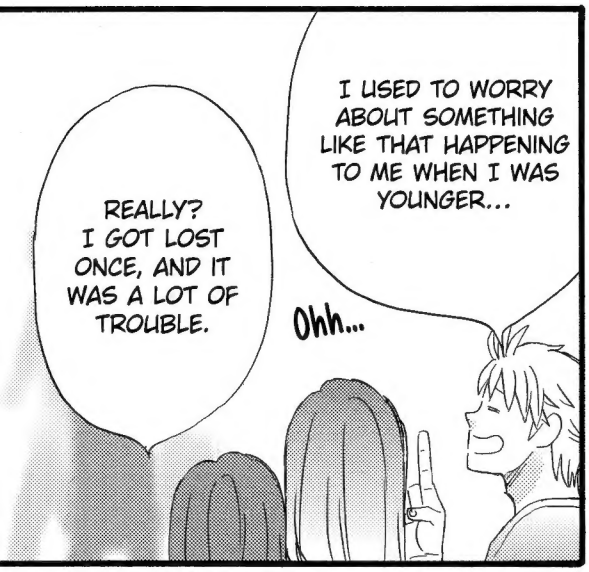

SHE SERIOUSLY MEANS IT.
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ISHIMURA-SAN.
...
WHAAAT?!!

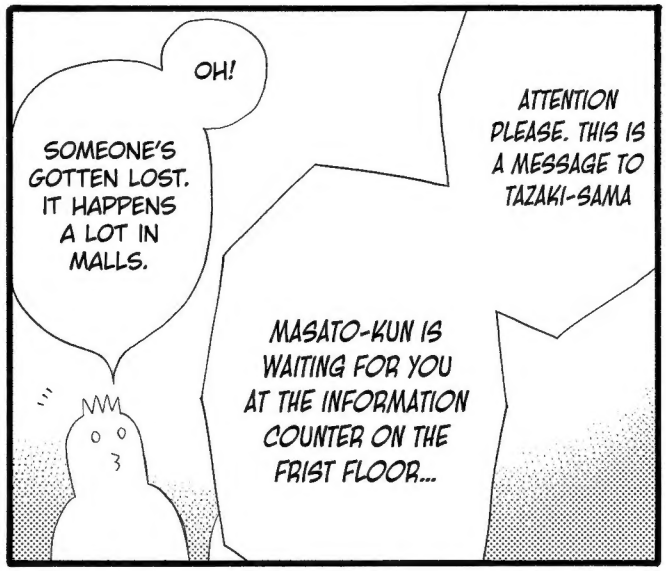






WE REALLY BOUGHT A LOT OF THINGS!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL DELIVER THE STUDY DESK AND BED TOMORROW.
WOW! THANK YOU VERY MUCH YOU TWO!


I USED TO WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING TO ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...
REALLY? I GOT LOST ONCE, AND IT WAS A LOT OF TROUBLE.
Ohh...


OH!
SOMEONE'S GOTTEN LOST. IT HAPPENS A LOT IN MALLS.
ATTENTION PLEASE. THIS IS A MESSAGE TO TAZAKI-SAMA
MASATO-KUN IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE INFORMATION COUNTER ON THE FRIST FLOOR...

...
I REMEMBER THAT I CRIED REALLY HARD.

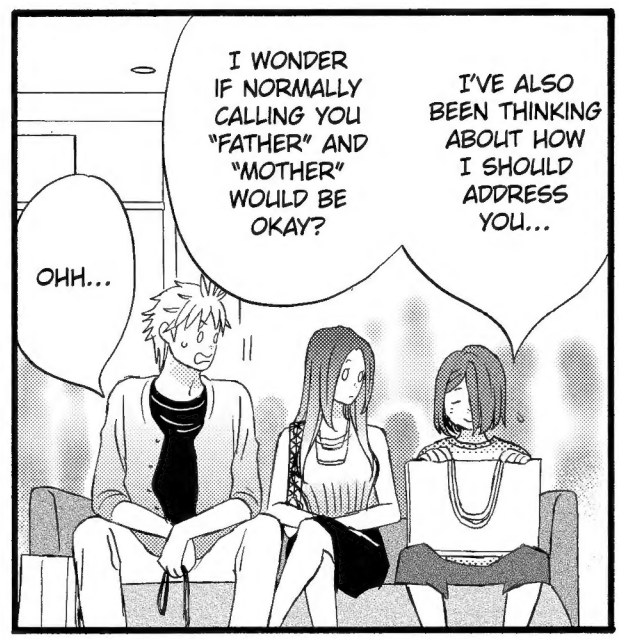
SO WHEN MY PARENTS CAME TO PICK ME UP...

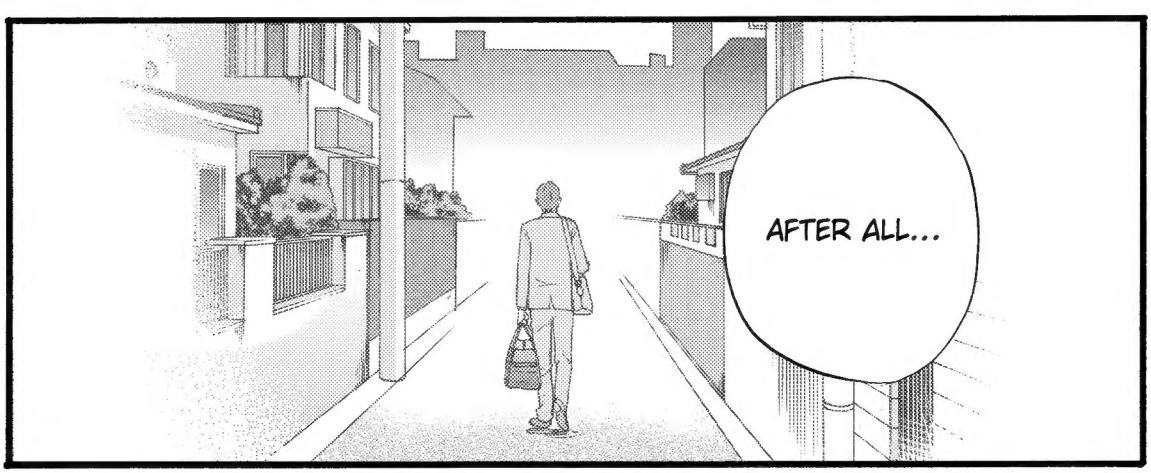
BACK THEN, I FELT LONELY AND SCARED.

EVEN IF IT DOES, I KNOW THE TWO OF YOU WILL COME TO PICK ME UP.

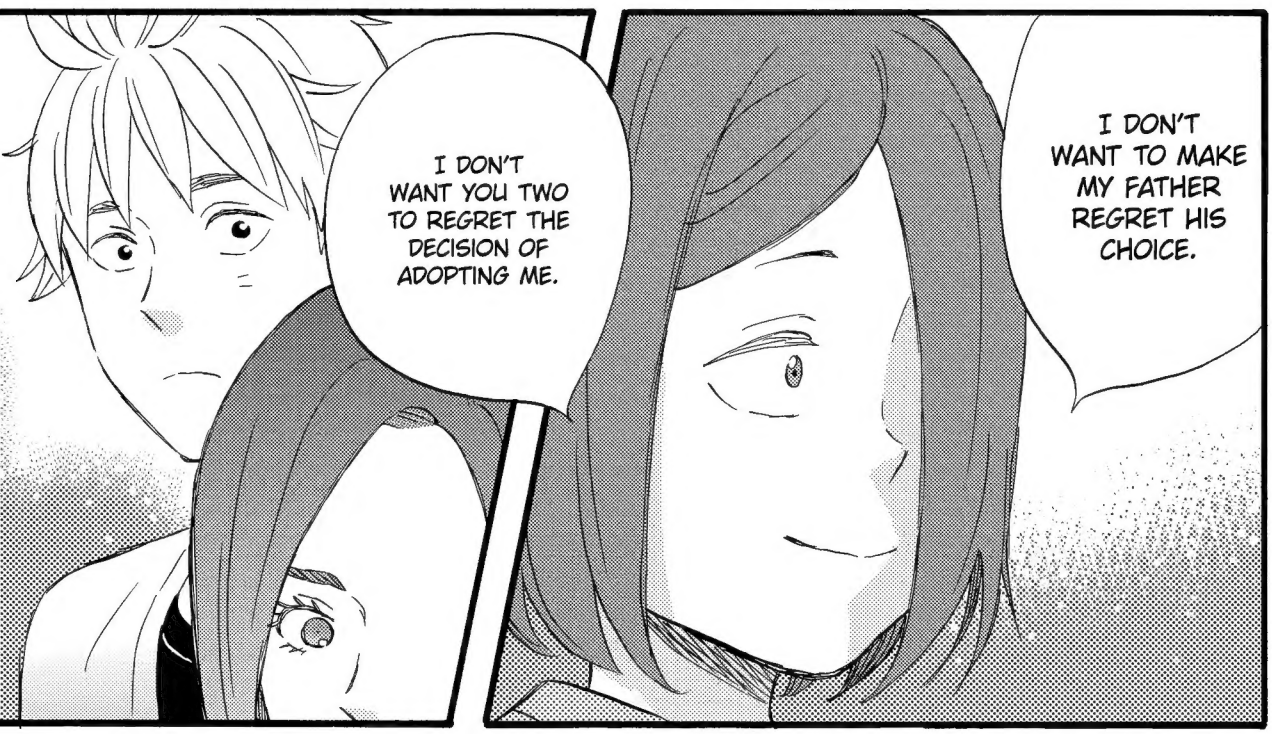
BUT I'M OLDER NOW. I DON'T THINK IT'LL HAPPEN AGAIN, BUT...

BUT YOU ALREADY HAVE A FATHER... YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF.
I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE EMBARRASSING...
Yeah.
Right?

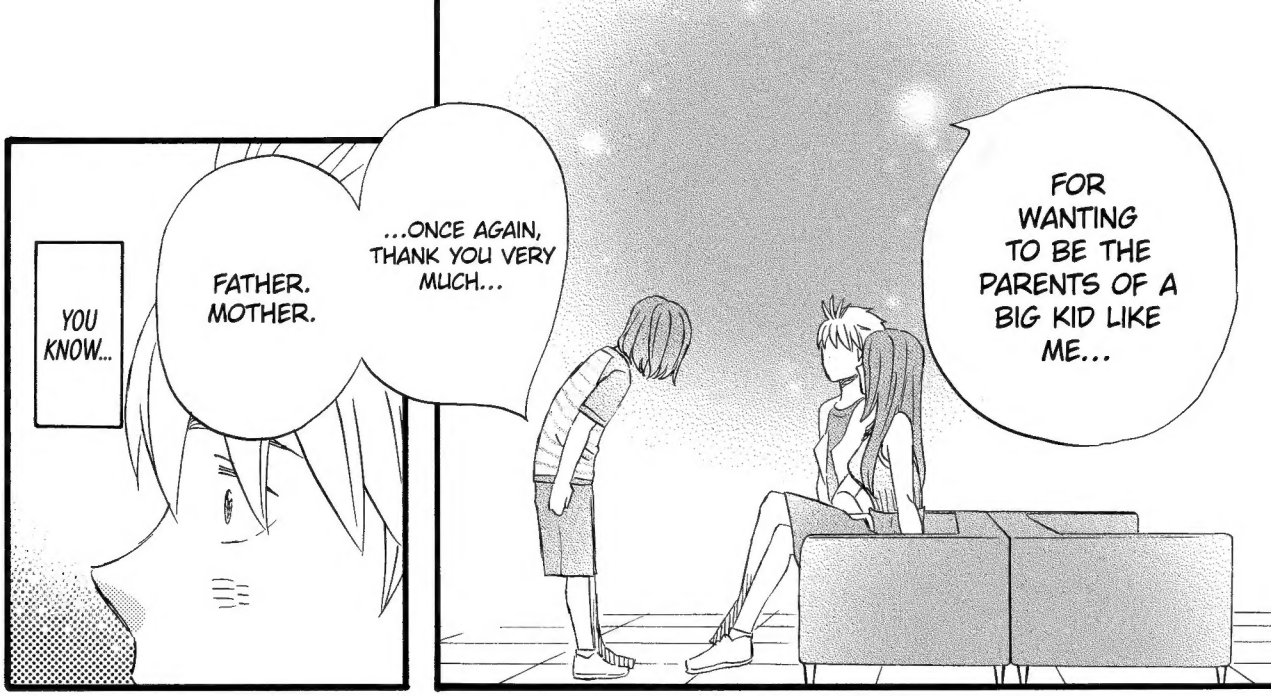

I'VE ALSO BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW I SHOULD ADDRESS YOU...
I WONDER IF NORMALLY CALLING YOU "FATHER" AND "MOTHER" WOULD BE OKAY?
OHH...

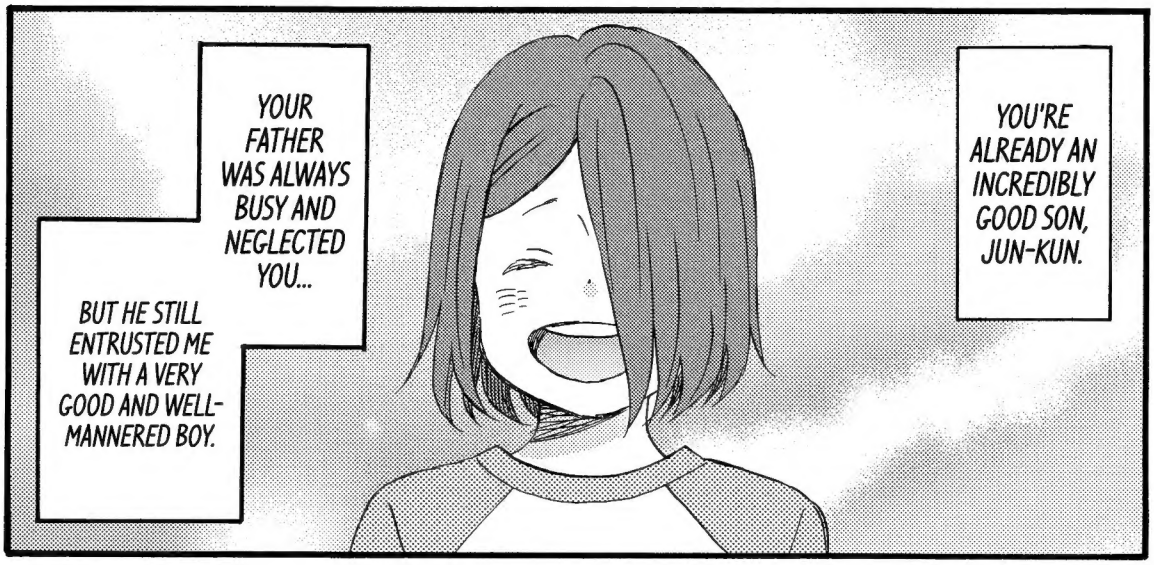

AFTER ALL...

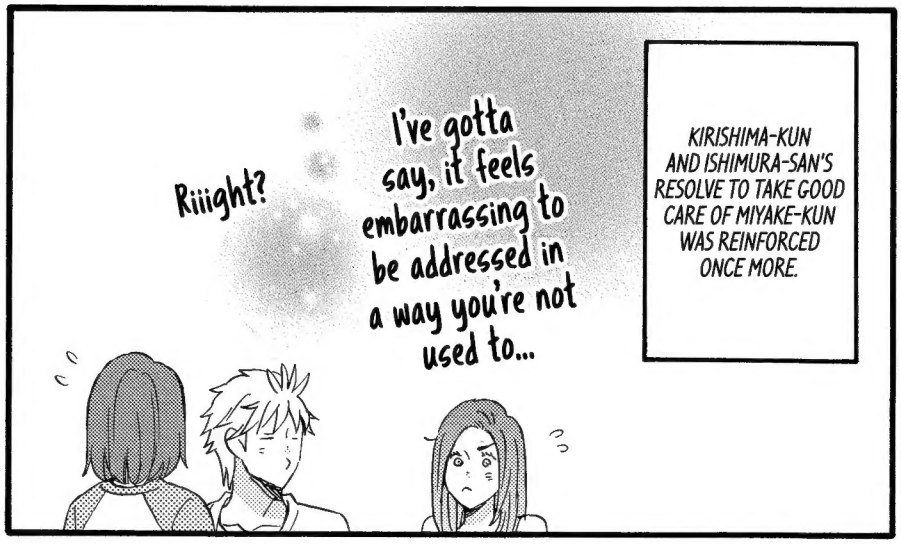
To Jun
MY FATHER HAD FAITH IN BOTH OF YOU. HE BELIEVED HE COULD ENTRUST ME TO YOU.
I HONESTLY DON'T THINK THAT LEAVING WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT ALL, BUT...


I DON'T WANT YOU TWO TO REGRET THE DECISION OF ADOPTING ME.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MY FATHER REGRET HIS CHOICE.

Step
THAT'S WHY...
I WANT TO BE A GOOD SON. ONE WHO MAKES YOU AND MY FATHER PROUD.
Step


YOU KNOW...
FATHER. MOTHER.
...ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
FOR WANTING TO BE THE PARENTS OF A BIG KID LIKE ME...


YOUR FATHER WAS ALWAYS BUSY AND NEGLECTED YOU...
BUT HE STILL ENTRUSTED ME WITH A VERY GOOD AND WELL-MANNERED BOY.
YOU'RE ALREADY AN INCREDIBLY GOOD SON, JUN-KUN.


Riiight?
I've gotta say, it feels embarrassing to be addressed in a way you're not used to...
KIRISHIMA-KUN AND ISHIMURA-SAN'S RESOLVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF MIYAKE-KUN WAS REINFORCED ONCE MORE.